

**Secret**

25X1

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



**Imagery analysis report**

## **Iraq/Iran Military Summary**

25X1

**Secret**

WNINTEL

Z-20123/80  
IAR-0263/80  
OCTOBER 1980  
Copy 167

**Page Denied**

**SECRET**

25X1

**IRAQ/IRAN MILITARY SUMMARY**

25X1

1. (S/D) This report continues a series summarizing imagery-derived intelligence on Iraqi and Iranian military activity; this report updates the most recent<sup>1</sup> in the series and covers the period from [ ] 25X1  
[ ] The report discusses deployed ground forces in the forward area of conflict, rear 25X1  
garrison units, airfields, naval bases, POL facilities, and the observation of possible Iraqi aircraft in Oman (Figures 1 through 3 ). Additional reports will be issued as the situation changes.

**OVERVIEW**

2. (S/D) Imagery of the forward areas of conflict showed that Iraqi ground force units were moving closer to the Iranian cities of Ahvaz and Dezful on [ ] However, the Iraqi ground force units in the 25X1  
Dezful area had advanced only 10 nautical miles (nm) between [ ] despite an 25X1  
overwhelming superiority in armor, artillery, and mechanized infantry. Also as of [ ] Iraqi units 25X1  
were within 10 nm of Ahvaz. Ground force deployments near the cities of Ahvaz and Dezful are discussed in this report.

3. (S/D) Coverage of rear area garrisons was limited to one facility in both Iraq and Iran. In both cases, elements of the forces located there had departed garrison. These forces consisted of elements of the mountain infantry brigade at Sinjar in northern Iraq and of artillery at Esfahan in Iran.

4. (S/D) Six Iraqi and five Iranian airfields were observed during the period. All the airfields in Iraq were operational and none had sustained new bomb damage. An increase in BLINDER aircraft was observed at Al Taqaddum airfield since [ ] Additionally, possible Iraqi aircraft were seen in 25X1  
Oman.

5. (S/D) There appeared to be no additional bomb damage to the Iranian airfields. However, aircraft were seen only at the airfield in Esfahan. Furthermore, Iraqi ground force units were drawing closer to the airfields in the Dezful area.

6. (S/D) No damage was seen at one naval facility in Iraq and three naval facilities in Iran. Additionally, no evidence of hostilities was seen on the islands of Nabe Tunb or Jazirat Abu Musa, in the Straits of Hormuz.

7. (S/D) Two refineries/POL storage facilities in Iraq and nine in Iran were imaged. Most of the damage to these facilities had involved storage tanks and pipelines rather than refinery units. Additionally, the Iranians have begun to deploy anti-aircraft artillery (AA) around several of these installations.

**GROUND FORCE ACTIVITY****Iraq/Iran Forward Area****Ahvaz Area**

8. (S/D) On [ ] a large Iraqi mechanized infantry force was engaged in a heavy artillery 25X1  
duel with Iranian forces defending the city of Ahvaz (Figure 4). The Iraqi units were deployed approximately 8 nm west and 10 nm southwest of Ahvaz from 31-15-00N 048-30-00E to 31-08-00E 048-17-00N along the main road and rail line connecting the city with Khorramshahr and in defensive positions running from roughly 31-19-45N 048-31-00E south-southwest to 31-19-00N 048-28-50E. These forces consisted of nine mechanized infantry battalions, two tank battalions, and seven artillery batteries.

9. (S/D) The Iranian units defending the southwest edge of Ahvaz included one tank company and two mechanized infantry companies at 31-16-00N 048-32-00E and one 155mm M-109 self-propelled (SP) howitzer battalion (minus) at 31-20-00N 048-36-00E. An additional Iranian tank company was deployed in defensive positions along a road approximately 6 nm northwest of Ahvaz at 31-23-00N 048-34-00E.

10. (S/D) Numerous impact craters and nine destroyed vehicles were on the western and southwest-ern portions of the battlefield. Shell damage was observed in the city.

**Dezful Area**

11. (S/D) By [ ] an Iraqi mechanized infantry division had advanced 36 nm into Iranian 25X1  
territory, to within 13 nm of Dezful (Figure 5). The division had split its forces into two groups. The northern group consisted of three tank battalions, four mechanized infantry battalions (plus), and three field artillery battalions. The advance of this group had shifted from the easterly movement toward the city on [ ] to a more northeasterly direction by [ ] The lead elements of this force had 25X1  
taken up positions along the west bank of the Karkheh River opposite the three main highway bridges ( at 32-24-50N 048-09-58E) leading to Dezful. The two high-capacity bridges had been rendered inoperable, apparently by the Iranians, and the through-truss bridge did not appear to be capable of accommodating armored vehicles.

**SECRET**

12. (S/D) The Iranians had taken up defensive positions on high ground overlooking approaches to the bridges. This defensive force consisted of one tank company (minus) and one mechanized infantry company (minus). This force was supported by a tank platoon and a mechanized infantry platoon located at Dezful Highway Strip (32-24-30N 048-14-00E) and one field artillery battery (minus) at (32-25-20N 048-14-45E). No further Iranian forces were observed in the Dezful area, with the exception of elements of the armor brigade housed at Dezful Barracks and Brigade Headquarters [ ] which remained in garrison on [ ]. A decrease of approximately 17 tanks (to 20) was observed at this installation since [ ] when 37 tanks were present.

25X1  
25X1  
25X1

13. (S/D) Rear elements of the southern group of Iraqi forces occupied the Dezful AW Radar Facility [ ] and the Dezful Hawk Site 3 [ ] this Hawk site was being used by the Iranian as a probable command post. The second geodesic-type radar dome at the AW radar facility had been destroyed.

25X1

14. (S/D) The forward elements of the southern group were approximately 14 nm southwest of Dezful. Two Iraqi tank battalions, a field artillery (FA) battalion, two armored personnel carrier (APC) battalions, and an engineer unit were observed on the west side of the Karkheh River across from Shush. One tank battalion and elements of one APC battalion were defensively deployed at 32-13-25N 048-10-40E. The second tank battalion and the second APC battalion, also defensively deployed, were at 32-12-55N 008-11-25E. The tanks of both battalions were oriented to the north, east, and south. Two MTU-20 (tank-launched bridges) and one possible MTU-20 were traveling in a northwesterly direction through these units. An APC company was observed at 32-11-10N 048-12-22E, also traveling in a northwesterly direction. A second APC company was in the process of crossing the Karkheh River at 32-12-30N 048-12-20E. Four APC were on the west bank, and the other three had already reached the east bank. Artillery impact craters were apparent on the north-and south-eastern sides of Shush. Two tanks and one APC, in the southeast edge of Shush, were the only Iranian units observed.

**REAR AREA****Iraq**

15. (S/D) At Sinjar Barracks and Brigade Headquarters [ ] in northern Iraq, elements of the mountain infantry brigade housed at this facility had departed between [ ] [ ] Combat units out of garrison included two infantry battalions (plus), one field artillery battalion (minus), and approximately half of the supply and transportation battalion. No other Iraqi rear area garrisons were imaged during this period.

25X1  
25X1  
25X1**Iran**

16. (S/D) The convoys reported at Esfahan Barracks Artillery Training Center and Brigade Headquarters [ ] as well as one M-46 battalion and one M-109A1 SP howitzer battalion had departed by [ ]. A convoy containing 46 trucks with five towed 130mm M-46 field guns and seven towed small FA pieces was within the installation. A decrease in the number of buses and support vehicles was also observed. In addition, the vehicles and artillery had been shifted from the usual row parking to random dispersal parking since [ ]. No other Iranian rear garrison areas were imaged during this period.

25X1  
25X1  
25X1**AIR ACTIVITY****Iraq**

17. (S/D) Mosul Airfield [ ] in northern Iraq remained operational on imagery of [ ] with no additional evidence of airstrikes. Nine FISHBED, three FITTER, and 12 FRESCO aircraft were parked in and around the hangar area at the northwest end of the airfield. The noses of two possible FISHBED were protruding from hangar areas at the southwest end of the airfield, and seven HIP and one HOUND helicopters were parked on the grass on the west side of the airfield. The FISHBED which had skidded off the runway onto the infield was still present.

25X1  
25X1

18. (S/D) In the Tikrit area on imagery of [ ] four FISHBED had arrived at Al Sahra Airfield [ ] and the two FLOGGER had departed. Additional aircraft observed included one CUB and L-39 and MAYA aircraft. The L-39 and MAYA remained dispersed throughout the airfield. No damage to the airfield was observed.

25X1  
25X1

19. (S/D) At K-3 Airfield [ ] in west central Iraq, four HIND and six HIP were observed on [ ]. This was an increase of one HIP since [ ]. The BMP-equipped mechanized infantry company remained deployed near the airfield.

25X1  
25X1

20. (S/D) Bomber aircraft at Al Taqaddum [ ] included three BLINDER, one possible BLINDER, and two BADGER. This is an increase of one confirmed and one possible BLINDER since Al Taqaddum was last imaged on [ ]. In addition, two FLOGGER, one probable FLOGGER, eight

25X1  
25X1

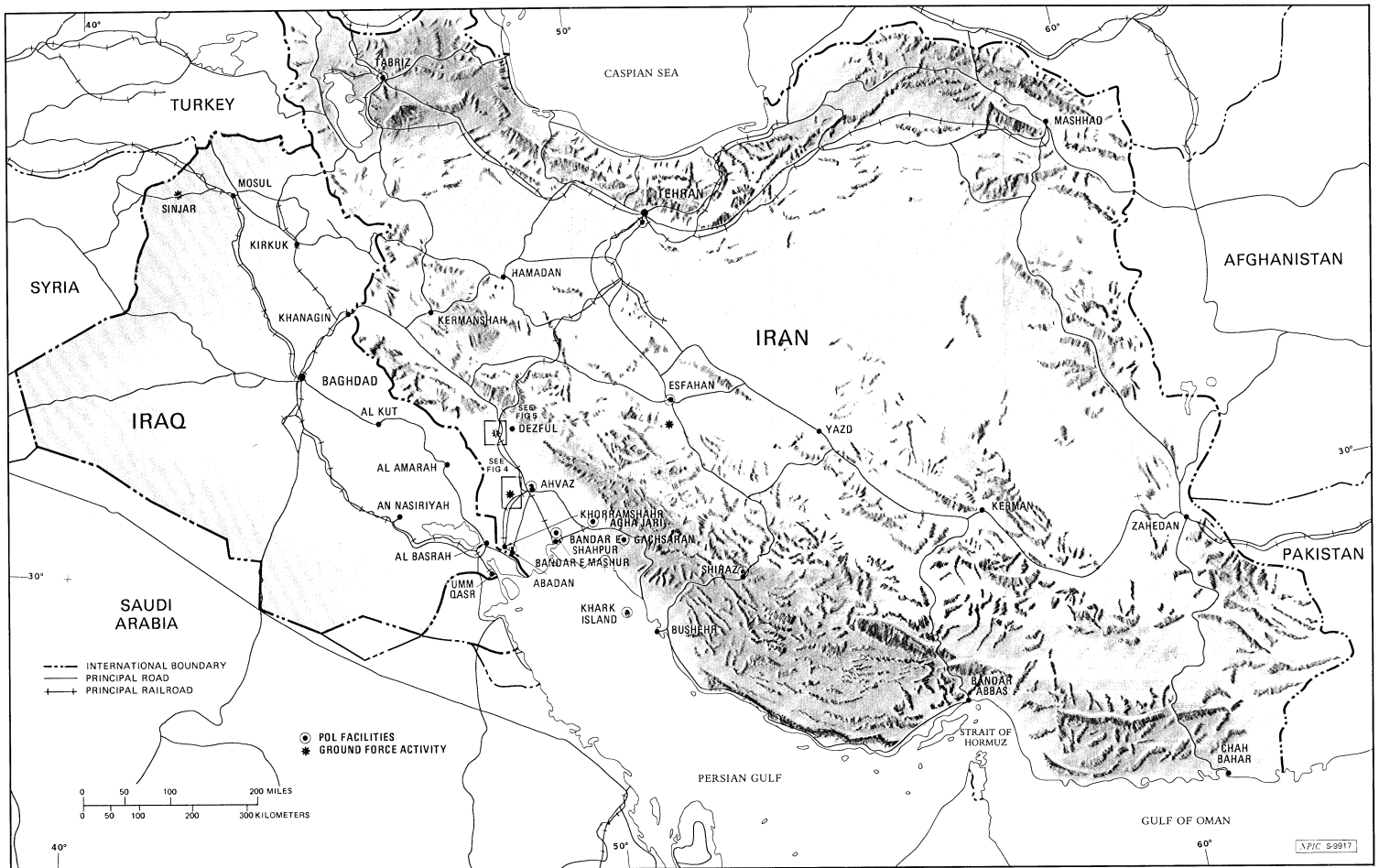


FIGURE 1. IRAQI/IRANIAN GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY AND POL FACILITIES

SECRET

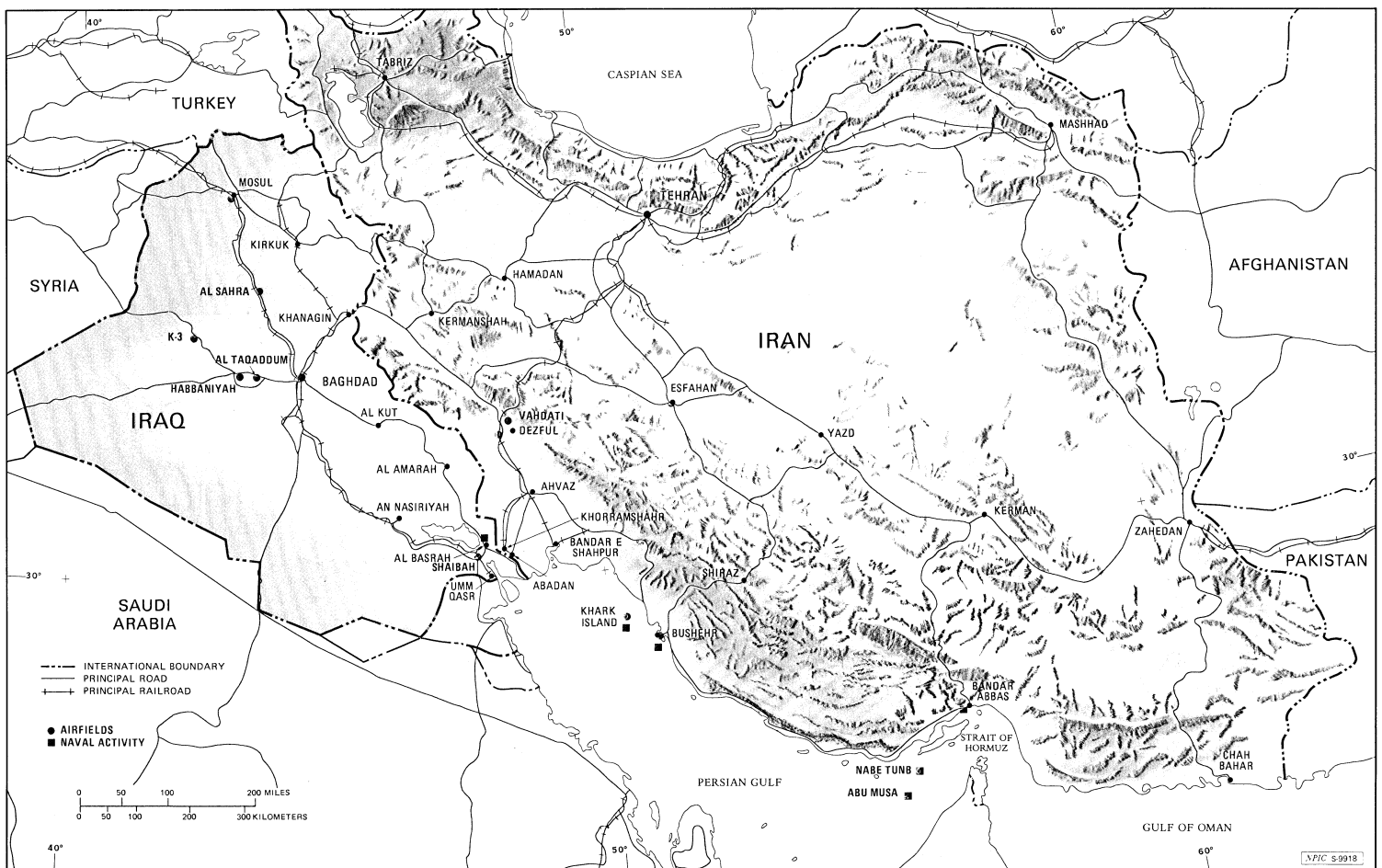


FIGURE 2. IRAQI/IRANIAN AIR AND NAVAL FACILITIES

SECRET

**SECRET**

FITTER, two FISHBED, and two probable FISHBED were observed. No additional damage to the runway or facilities was observed.

21. (S/D) Habbaniyah Airfield [ ] approximately 50 nm west of Baghdad, was operational on [ ] and no bomb damage was discernible. Aircraft at the airfield included at least six Hawker Hunter, one possible FISHBED, four HIP helicopters and one Jetstar. One HOOK and five HIP were dispersed in the housing/support area. 25X1 25X1

22. (S/D) Shaibah Airfield [ ] in the Al Basrah area, was operational on [ ] with no bomb damage observed. Three HIP-C and three SUPER FRELON helicopters were present. 25X1 25X1

23. (S/D) At Seeb Airfield International [ ] near Muscat, Oman, two SUPER FRELON helicopters were seen on imagery of [ ] but were not present on [ ]. A CUB with no discernible markings was being refueled in the military area on [ ]. These aircraft are not known to be part of the Omani inventory. Iraq is the only country in the Persian Gulf area known to have the SUPER FRELON. 25X1 25X1 25X1

## Iran

24. (S/D) In the Dezful area at Vahdati AB Airfield [ ], no operational aircraft were observed on partial coverage of [ ]. No additional battle damage had been sustained since [ ] however Iraqi forces were observed 13.2 nm west of the airfield on the same day. 25X1 25X1 25X1

25. (S/D) At Dezful Highway Strip [ ] no battle damage was observed on partial coverage of [ ]. Iranian defensive forces in the vicinity included four tanks and two APC. Iraqi forces were 2 nm west of the airfield. 25X1 25X1

26. (S/D) The runway at Khark Island Airfield [ ] remained undamaged on [ ] it was, however, newly blocked by a bus and two other vehicles. No aircraft were present—a C-130 was present on [ ]. 25X1 25X1

27. (S/D) There appeared to be no additional damage to the runway or facilities at Bushehr Airfield [ ]. The four bomb craters at the northwest end of runway 13R had been repaired by [ ]. No aircraft were observed on partial coverage of the airfield. 25X1 25X1

28. (S/D) The several hundred helicopters usually observed at Esfahan Airfield [ ] had been dispersed since [ ]. One 727, one 737, and two F-27 were present; this number of transport aircraft are not usually observed at this airfield. 25X1 25X1

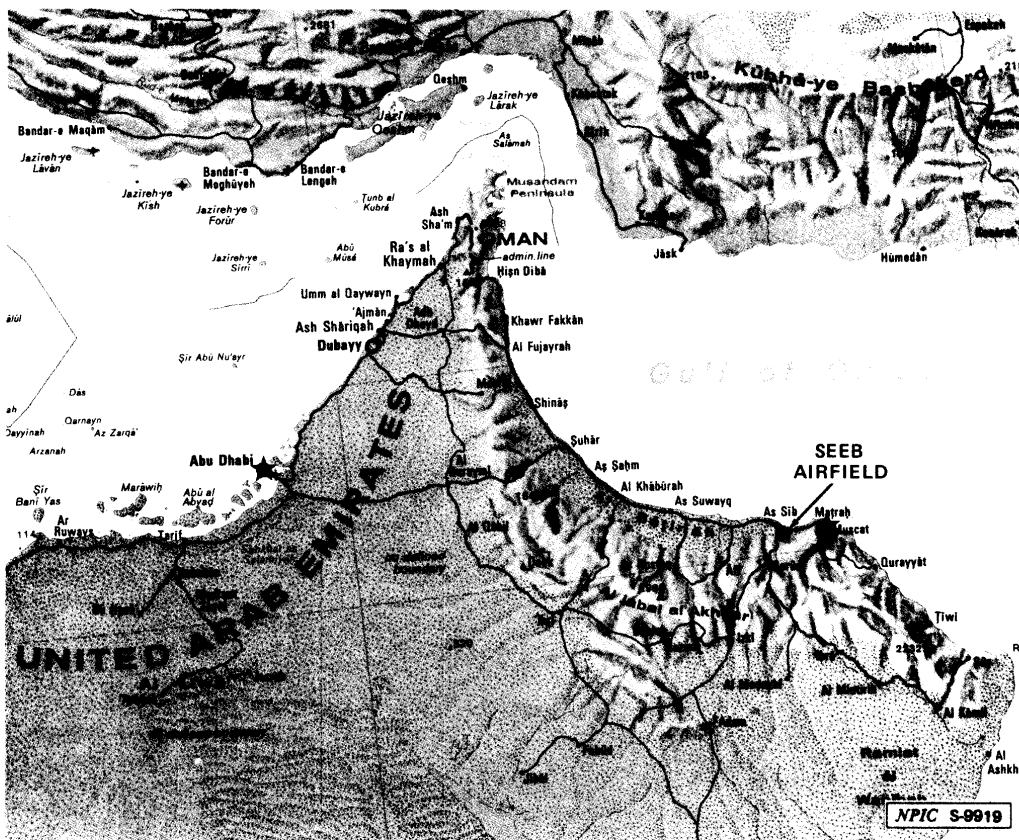


FIGURE 3. POSSIBLE IRAQI AIRCRAFT IN OMAN

**SECRET**

IAR-0263/80

Z-20123/80

**SECRET****NAVAL ACTIVITY****Iraq**

29. (S/D) The majority of the combatants at Al Basrah Naval Base [ ] on the Shatt Al Arab were dispersed in the river on [ ]. These combatants included two SO-1 submarine chasers (PCS), three probable river patrol boats (PBR), two Polnocny medium amphibious assault landing ships (LSM), one T-43 fleet minesweeper (MSF), and a Split-B training ship (AX). Ships at the base included one Osa missile attack boat (PTG), and two P-6 torpedo boats. One Soviet Leninski Komso-molsk-class merchant ship was at the quay. No damage was observed at the facility.

25X1  
25X1

**Iran**

30. (S/D) Three Wellington patrol air cushion vehicles (PACV), one possible Wellington PACV, and three Winchester PACV were at Khark Island Hovercraft Base ( [ ]) In addition, one Wellington and one Winchester were at Jazireh Ye Khark Naval Base [ ] on the same date. Hovercraft are not usually observed at the naval base. No damage was apparent at either facility.

25X1  
25X1

31. (S/D) Two PF-103 patrol frigates (PF) had arrived at Bushehr Naval Base [ ] and two La Combattante-IIB (Kamen) PTG and one MK-III patrol boat (PB) had departed from the base between [ ]. The naval order-of-battle on [ ] included three PF-103 PF, five La Combattante-IIB, and seven MK-III PB (one outbound in the river). No damage was observed to the two PF-13 PF that had recently arrived at the base or to the remaining vessels in port. The naval base itself remained undamaged.

25X1  
25X1

**Straits of Hormuz**

32. (S/D) One Sumner guided missile destroyer (DDG) had arrived at Bandar Abbas Port Facilities Suru [ ], and one La Combattante-IIB PTG had departed from the facility since [ ]. The area beyond the harbor, where the Kangan water carrier was anchored on [ ] was not imaged. Vessels in port included two Sumner DDG, one battle destroyer (DD), two Vosper MK-5 (SAAM) guided missile frigates (FFG), one La Combattante-IIB PTG, two PGM-71-class motor gunboats (PGM), one Cape-class PGM, six MK-III PB, three river/roadstead PBR, two Wellington PACV, one Hengham tank landing ship (LST), one repair ship (AR), one small replenishment ship, two medium landing crafts (LCM), and the Michaelangelo Barracks Ship (APB). No evidence of hostilities was observed.

25X1  
25X1

33. (S/D) A cargo replenishment ship, probably Iranian, was dead in the water offshore from Nabe Tunb Island [ ]. A small craft was observed approaching the vessel from the island. No significant activity or evidence of hostilities was observed at Jazirat Abu Musa Island (BE [ ]) on the same date.

25X1  
25X1

**POL FACILITIES****Iraq**

34. (S/D) In the Al Basrah Area at Al Basrah Petroleum Refinery Muftiyah [ ] one large vertical POL storage tank was on fire and emitting smoke, one medium vertical POL tank had been destroyed, and smoke damage suggested that a third POL tank had been damaged. The damage, however, was confined by the firewall. The pumping facilities appeared to be operational. No POL tankers were at the pier. Smoke damage was first reported on [ ]. This facility is for POL storage only. See Figures 6 and 7 for pre- and poststrike imagery.

25X1  
25X1  
25X1

35. (S/D) At Al Basrah Petroleum Refinery Az Zubayr [ ], also imaged on [ ] four large vertical POL tanks were destroyed—one was burning. Fire damage appeared to have been confined by the firewalls; however, adjacent pipelines had been destroyed. The two gas flares at the refinery were no longer emitting smoke, suggesting that the installation had been secured. Two oil spills were on fire near the refinery. These oil spills may be the result of the deliberate dumping of oil with the resulting fires obscuring large sections of the refinery. The major production areas of the refinery appeared to have received little or no damage. See Figures 8 and 9 for pre- and poststrike imagery.

25X1  
25X1

**Iran**

36. (S/D) The Abadan Petroleum Refinery NIOC [ ] Figure 10) had been damaged, and on [ ] was partially obscured by smoke emanating from at least three large fires in the complex. Seven small product storage cylinders had been damaged, and half of a cooling unit had been destroyed. At least one storage tank had been destroyed, and two storage tanks had been punctured—the

25X1  
25X1



**SECRET**

earthen revetments surrounding these two appeared to be filled with crude oil. There were small fires immediately adjacent to several gas storage tanks (probably propane). Pipelines had been ruptured and were on fire in three areas; however, the catalytic cracking unit appeared to be undamaged. Although smoke obscured the distillation units, no fires were observed in this area. Most of the observed damage had been confined to the storage tanks.

37. (S/D) Smoke obscured part of Abadan Petroleum Products Storage and Pumping Station Trans Iran 1 [ ] on the same coverage of [ ]. At least seven storage tanks were destroyed, four of which were still on fire, and a pipeline had been ruptured and was also on fire. 25X1

38. (S/D) Ahvaz Gas/Oil Separation Facilities North [ ] 5.5 nm north of Ahvaz, appeared to be undamaged when seen on imagery of [ ]. There was no sign of hostilities in the immediate area; however, Iraqi forces were observed 10.5 nm southwest of the facility. 25X1  
25X1

39. (S/D) No damage or hostile activity was apparent at Gachsaran Oil/Gas Separation Plant (BE [ ] AghaJari Oil/Gas Separation Plant [ ] or Bandar E Mashur POL Terminal [ ] 25X1  
25X1

40. (S/D) At Khark Island, four POL pipelines at 29-14-45N 050-18-35E had been damaged, probably by [ ]. No new damage to the POL facilities was apparent. Two destroyed POL storage tanks at Jazireh Ye Khark Crude Oil Storage Island [ ] continued to smolder. The oil loading jetty appeared to be undamaged. No POL tankers were at the jetty. One medium-sized tanker was moored off the southeast end of the island at the Iran Pan-American Oil Company Sea Loading Terminal. 25X1  
25X1

41. (S/D) Increased defenses were observed at four Iranian POL installations. No damage or evidence of hostilities was apparent in or around any of the facilities. Six probable ZU-23 AA sites were deployed around Shiraz Petroleum Refinery Takht E Jamshid [ ]. 25X1  
[ ] A convoy of approximately 26 POL trucks was observed approaching the main entrance of the facility. 25X1

42. (S/D) Three ZSU-23/4 SP AA, one possible ZSU-23/4 SP AA and five probable ZU-23 AA sites had been positioned around Esfahan Petroleum Refinery Northwest [ ]. A truck-mounted mast antenna had been erected near one corner of the installation. 25X1

43. (S/D) Two probable ZU-23 AA sites had been established on the perimeter of the Rey Petroleum Refinery and Storage Facility [ ] south of Tehran since [ ]. An unidentified heavy vehicle-mounted mast, possibly electronics related, had been erected near one of the AA sites. Nearby Tehran Hawk Site 3 [ ] remained occupied. The large backup of over 100 POL trucks seen at the refinery had been dispersed by [ ]. A smaller convoy of approximately 22 POL trucks was observed in another area near an interior gate to one of the storage areas. 25X1  
25X1

44. (S/D) At Tabriz POL Refinery [ ] four probable ZU-23 AA sites had been set up around the perimeter of the installation. 25X1

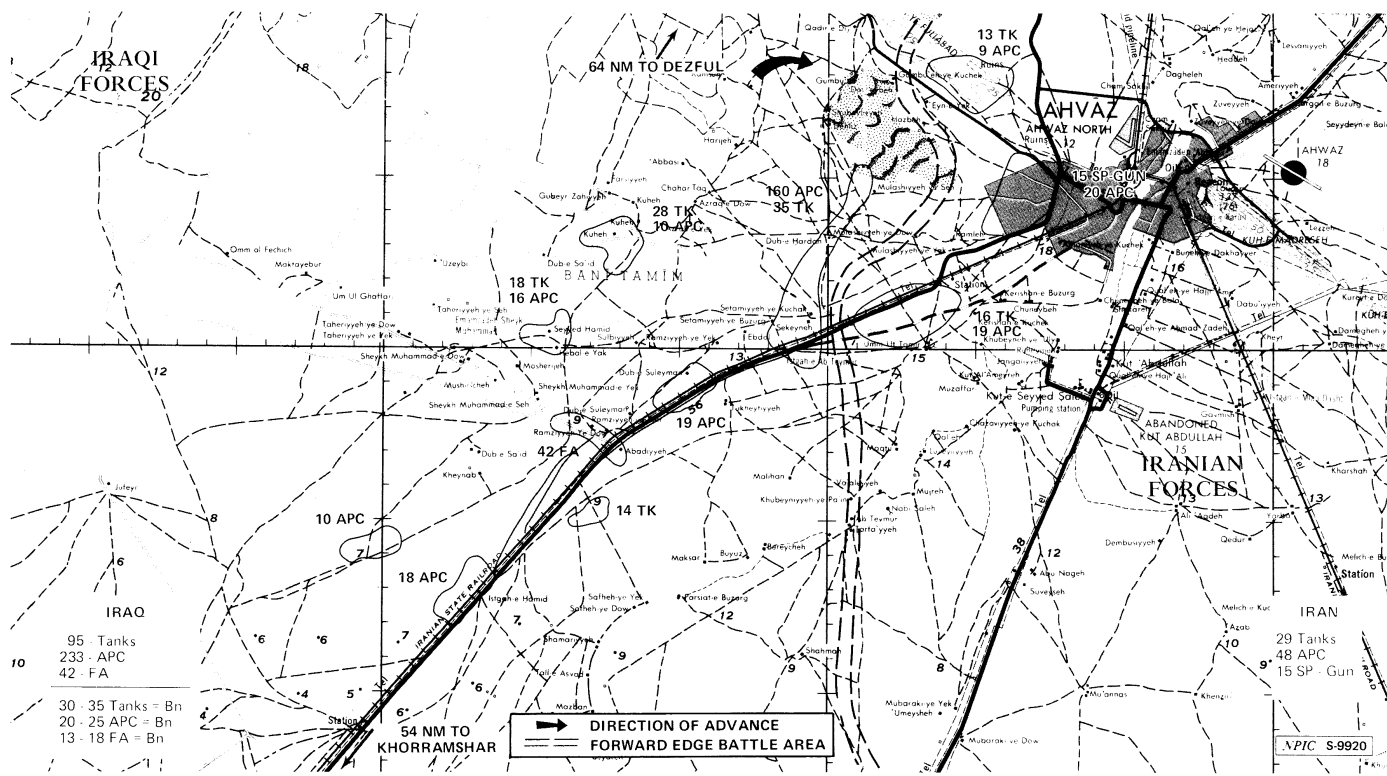


FIGURE 4. GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY IN THE AHVAZ, IRAN, AREA ON



**Page Denied**

Next 4 Page(s) In Document Denied

**SECRET**

**REFERENCES**

**IMAGERY**

(S/D) All applicable satellite imagery acquired from [ ] was used in the preparation of this report. 25X1

**MAPS OR CHARTS**

DoD. Joint Operations Graphics, Various Sheets (UNCLASSIFIED, Distribution Restricted)

**DOCUMENT**

1. NPIC. Z-20106/80, *Iraq/Iran Military Summary*. [ ] (S/SECRET [ ]) 225X1  
[ ] 25X1

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to the South Asia/Arabia Branch, Third World Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [ ] 25X1

**Secret**

**Secret**